SELECTIONS FROM OLD RECORDS,
MADURA DISTRICT.

4

THE FINDING OF PEARL OYSTERS AT THE JUNCTION OF THE VYGAY AND COONDAUR RIVERS.

MADRAS:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS
1919

A.S.D. 231
2 AUG 1919

SELECTIONS FROM OLD RECORDS, MADURA DISTRICT.

THE FINDING OF PEARL OYSTERS AT THE JUNCTION OF THE VYGAY AND COONDAUR RIVERS.

Letter—from H. VIVEASH, Esq., Principal Collector of Madura.
To—the President and Members of the Board of Revenue.
Dated—the 27th November 1832.

In reply to your Secretary's letter, dated 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to submit translation of an arzee which induced me to propose to your Board an examination of the Rāmnād coast for pearl oysters.

I cannot find that any pearl fishery has before occurred on the coast dependent on this Collectorate. I think, however, the experiment might be made because the beds of Manar and Tuticorin are situated in the same gulph of the sea as the spots pointed out to me, and there is no apparent cause why these oysters should not congregate on the submerged banks off the Rāmnād coast south of Paumben as well as elsewhere in the Manar Gulph. The examination is of course entirely experimental.

ENCLOSURE.

Arzee—from APPAVYEN, Acting Amildar of the Salt Pans in Ramnad and Shevagungah.
To—H. VIVEASH, Esq., Principal Collector of Madura.
Dated—the 24th July 1832.

The orders of the 25th June mentions that information had been received that pearl oysters are produced in the Gulph of Manar at the conjunction of the Vygay and Coondaur rivers in the limits of the Paumben Choukey, and that pearl oysters without pearls are found east ashore, and directing me to summon the pilots and amblagars and make enquiry of them relative to the circumstance, and to report thereon accompanied with depositions on the subject, and the places whereon they are produced. I sent orders to the Choukeydar at the Paumben post to make enquiry on the subject, and he reports that the people say that young pearl oysters are sometimes found on the shores in the months of July and August from Danashcody to Coonthakaul when the *sholaga* and *kondal* winds are very strong, but at the present time they are not found in those places. The above was reported in his arzee of the 8th instant, but on enquiry of Pitcha Amblagauren and Cawderpillay, pilots who were sent to me by the said Choukeydar, they state that the limits of the port extend from the south of Vaithaulay as far as the south of Danashcody, that they or their ancestors have never seen any places where the pearl oysters are produced, that for four or five years when the *sholaga* winds had beat very boisterously they discovered in the months of July and August shells of young pearl oysters without any substance in them, open and cast on the shore of Koonthakaul half a mile distance from Paumben and from thence on the shores extending as far as Danashcody, that they will ascertain whether any are to be found in the said months of the present year, that they do not know whether the shells are driven by the winds from the pearl fisheries of Manar and Tutacoory or whether they are from the oysters which produce in the vicinity of the Paumben port, that it depends upon an examination to be made, whether pearl oysters actually abound or not, that should it be necessary to make an examination that ten donies should be employed on the occasion, allowing to each doney two kuls—four divers—four mar adakoo persons—charmers and other servants and that if such is to be undertaken, it may be commenced from the month of Peruttashee to the 15th Arpeshee (September and October) and in the month of Tye 15th to the 30th Maushee (January and February) when the winds will be moderate. The attache given by them is herewith submitted, and I shall abide according to orders.